



Spirit of the North Valley 2006

Outstanding Citizen Biographies

Saturday, April 8, 2006
Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center
9800 4th Street NW, Albuquerque, NM

Brian Castillo (#1)

Brian is a lifelong resident of the North Valley. He is a freshman at Valley High School. He is a member of the Valley Senate and Golf Team. He has participated in food drives and has helped raise money for his school. He was the winner of the Young Catholic of the Year in 2005, Best Team Player Baseball Team in 2005, and MVP Football Team in 2005. Brian participates in various sporting activities: Golf, Basketball and Football. He is also involved in the National Jr. Society and maintains a 4.0 GPA. He is the son of Angelica and George Castillo and has two sisters: Briana and Brittany

Estefania Montanez (#2)

Estefania has been a North Valley resident for the last 10 years. She is a 5th grader at Los Ranchos Elementary School. Estefania is a member of the Girl Scout troop #1265 for the last 6 years, she is a “Student Mediator” and was selected as the “Mediator of the Week”, she is also a member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Children’s Choir, and participates on the elementary Tennis league at Valley High School. She is the 2005-2006 Spelling Bee Champion/Representative for Los Ranchos Elementary School. She sang at the Los Ranchos Mayors Chambers for the lighting of the Christmas tree and was hand selected to be on the cover of the January 2006 Los ranchos Community Magazine cover. Estefania has many good attributes, but the one that stands out the most is her ability to communicate both in English and Spanish, she is completely bi-literate and bi-lingual. Estefania is the daughter of Ramiro Sr. and Irma, she has two brothers: Ramiro Jr. and Eduardo.

Sherrie Sanchez (#3)

Sherrie is a past resident of the North Valley. She currently attends Del Norte High School where she is a sophomore. She served as a member of the Alameda Jr. Optimist Club for 5 years, where she was Vice-President, Secretary and was on the Board of Directors. She was also a member of Valley Academy Octagon Club. Sherrie was the Governor of the New Mexico/ West Texas youth optimist clubs during the 2004-2005 year. As Governor she attended the youth conference in El Paso and the Optimist International Convention in New Orleans. She also attended all the Optimist Club adult conferences in New Mexico and Texas. She presided over the installation of officers and new members in the local youth clubs. She attended most functions and worked all the fund raising projects. She recently received her award from the New Mexico/ West Texas district of Optimists International for serving as Governor. She was in the job mentorship program at Del Norte in 2004 and 2005. She was a cheerleader for 2 years and was recently awarded the Second Honors Academic Award. Sherrie is the daughter of Diane Martinez and George Trujillo. She has 5 siblings, Raymond, Richard, RJ, Amanda and Valerie, and a nephew Isaiah.

Camile Gushel (#4)

Camile is an 8th grader at Taylor Middle School. She is involved in many extracurricular activities including, Yearbook, Leather Crafting, Jazz and Tap, Horseback Riding, Piano and Chorus. She has been elected as Yearbook editor, Honor Roll and Student Council President. Camile was a huge part of the Student Council being reinstated at her school after several years of being nonexistent. She was dedicated to the point that she attended the schools instructional meetings at 7:15 AM twice a month. She wanted to make sure that other students were being informed as to what was going on in the school. Camile has a strong interest in government and politics. She feels that her involvement in the Student Council will give her a good foundation for her future. After she graduates from High School she plans on continuing onto Harvard Law School. Camile is the daughter of Luke and Anastasia Gushel and has one brother: Luke.

Alan Leyba (#5)

Alan has been a member of the North Valley for the last 11 years. Alan Leyba has been a student at Alameda Elementary since kindergarten. He has been an excellent student in all areas of academics and has been nominated as a Character Counts winner on numerous occasions. He is a gifted student and has been on the Honor Roll every year since 3rd grade. This school year Alan has represented Alameda Elementary in the Valley Cluster Spelling Bee. As a result of this competition, Alan became the winner of the Cluster Bee and represented Alameda in the Albuquerque Regional Spelling Bee. Alan is an all around positive student who gets along with all students and the staff. He is a true boy who loves to read and play sports. Mr. And Mrs. Alan Leyba have taken very strong interest in Alan's education and are currently scheduling Alan for placement consideration at either Academy or Bosque private schools. Alan is the son of Alan and Victoria Leyba and has a brother Luke. Alan is a product of excellent parents.

Chris Edwards (#6)

Chris Edwards has been a North Valley resident for the last 40+ years. She is the current president of the North Valley Optimist Club. She has been a member of Optimist Club for 20 years serving in many leadership positions including Lt. Governor for the New Mexico/ West Texas districts. Chris's love for the optimist club is due to the hands-on programs with the youth of the community. She helps the youth clubs with their arts and crafts for fund raising projects. Through her efforts the North Valley Optimist Club adopted a Child with Cancer whose family is from the north valley. The family was treated to a dinner out and was given clothes and toys for the children. Chris is also involved with the Ronald McDonald house, the North Valley Easter Festival, Bicycle Safety Program, Childhood Cancer Program, Operation Santa Claus, Spirit of the North Valley, and the annual Albuquerque Motorcycle Toy Run. She is the office manager for the Silver Cloud Jewelry Inc. Chris has 2 sons, Michael and Patrick and 2 grandchildren Ryan and Jordan.

Cheryl Moser-Howard (#8)

Cheryl is a life long resident of the North Valley. She is the President of the PTSA of Alameda Elementary, member of NMPTA, and has advocated for Legislative monies for North Valley schools. She is a member of Cub Scout Pack #713, and is the Girl Scouts Troop Cookie mom for Troop #1265. Cheryl is the Alameda Little League Secretary and has managed the Red Sox little league team for the past 2 years. Cheryl in the past has also served as the Treasurer for the Cub Scouts Pack #713, coached Soccer with the Alameda Soccer Club, and served as the President of the Parent Organization at Headstart. Cheryl and her family attend Lighthouse Baptist Church, under the direction of Pastor Larry Kennedy. In her spare time she does bookkeeping for her husbands business DH Recycling. Cheryl is married to Don and has three children: Kishandra, Kwentin and Khalen.

Leslie Hill (#9)

Leslie has been a life-long resident of the North Valley. She graduated from Valley High School in 1977. Leslie is a member of the North Valley Optimist Club where she has served as Secretary/Treasurer, and has been the co-advisor for the Valley Academy Octagon Club for the past 6 years. Leslie is a cancer survivor. Leslie has been in the nursing field for the last 20 years where she has worked as a licensed medical assistant and now works for Dr. Vic at Lovelace Hospital. Leslie puts her heart and soul into her patients. Leslie spends a lot of time with her father Bill. She especially is fond of her 3-year-old nephew Jeremy. Leslie is a cancer survivor. She is the proud mother of Ashley Hill and has two siblings Linda, Randy and the late Suzy.

Ana Garcia- (#10)

Ana Garcia has been a member of the North Valley for 11+ years and is also an active member of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church for 10 years. She has donated time, energy, and items throughout the years. She has volunteered for a year in a kindergarten classroom at Los Ranchos Elementary School. She has made popcorn for the children at Los Ranchos for 3 year. She made costumes for the Spring Fest by sewing shirts for the entire class. She has been an active member in the Los Ranchos PTO for 3 years. She has served as the Secretary and Vice President for the PTO. She has been a substitute for teachers, education assistants, and clerks. She is currently the Super Duper Clerk and Los Ranchos. The best thing about Ana is her complete Bi-literate and Bilingual abilities! Ana Garcia is married to Carlos Sr. and has three children: Carlos Jr., Alexandria and Carla. She is a quiet yet powerful communicator and leader!

Joe Bruno (#7)

Joe Bruno has been a North Valley resident for the last 37 years. Joe is a retired deputy for the Bernalillo County Sheriffs department, where he served 24 years. Joe spent 16 years of his career teaching over 20,000 children about Anti-Gang and Anti-Drug curriculum. Joe attended Mission Avenue Elem. Taft Junior High School and graduated from Valley High School in 1972. He is currently employed by the Albuquerque Public Schools Police Department where he is assigned to Cibola High School. Joe loves sports and has coached for Alameda Little League, YAFL, and also obtained his coaching license. Joe was head coach at Rio Grande High School for 2 years, and head coach at Menaul High School for a year. He recently ended his coaching career from Taylor Middle School where he was head coach for the girls basketball program for 5 years. Joe is proud of his community and continues to help the youth not just in coaching and being a police officer but also in the local church he attends. Joe has been married to his beautiful wife Jackie for 26 years and has three children: Andreanna, Joann and Joe Jr. He also has one granddaughter Dominique.